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SERVICE STATISTICS

Draft proposal for a workshop on the domestic (within country) service sector in developing countries

Note by the Secretary-General

The following proposal has been prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT) and will be orally introduced at the time of its consideration by the Commission:

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to assist African countries in defining the different components of the service sector, including the collection, processing and dissemination of data related to the service sector, and in identifying problems associated with those activities.

Background and justification

The Statistical Commission, at its special session (New York, 11-15 April 1994), recommended establishing an inter-agency task force on services statistics, with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as convener, to focus on international trade in services. Several developing countries asked for a group to be set up to examine and consider service industry statistics in view of the emerging nature of that sector in their economies. 1/ The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, at its seventeenth session (New York,

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* E/CN.3/1995/1.

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6-9 September 1994), urged UNSTAT to allocate the resources required to examine the problem.

Project activities

The most direct and practical assistance will be provided through a workshop, at which representatives of national statistical offices will:

(a) Review a report prepared by a one or more consultants, including information on the availability of data; the scope, coverage and sources of domestic sector statistics; and their homogeneity across Africa. The report will review problems associated with data collection and dissemination and will draft a strategy for action;

(b) Present national perspectives on the particular problems of the domestic service sector in the different countries of the region;

(c) Learn from each other's experiences and receive training in the process;

The final output of the workshop will be a revised report drafted by the consultant(s), evaluating the issues raised in the report and outlining a consensus strategy to solve the problems identified, and providing recommendations for the continuation of work in this field.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9 (E/1994/29), paras. 30-33.